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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISCH. 3 February 1948

SUBJECT Political Situation
as of 15 Nov 47

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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The PSL

2. "The population has no illusions that the newly formed 'United Peasant Party' is completely dominated by the regime. It would, however, be false to think that the regime is anxious to allow the PSL in its present form to live; it can be taken for granted that this 'United Peasant Party' will disappear in the near future. The agitation by the PPS in rural areas is being reinforced."

Relations Between Church and State

2. "The pastoral letter -- in which the Church criticizes sharply the policy of the state in connection with 'the Hitlerite methods of educating the young in schools', the suppression and chicanery toward the Catholic press, and the promotion of different sects -- was sent to parish priests by special messengers one day before the letter was to be read in churches. The US was able to catch one of those letters the same evening. Immediate great pressure was used to prevent the priests from reading the letter to the parishioners. This method gave no results, so priests were investigated in connection with their personal lives and their attitudes toward the opinions expressed in the letter."

3. "The authorities refused the use of halls and buildings for the celebration of the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday in October. In Katowice the hall hired for this celebration was refused the night before it was to take place. In spite of this, the celebration took place in the churches. The Bishop stated in his sermon there was no room for Christ in public places now, and this statement was received with great satisfaction by the public because of the Bishop's courage."

4. "Mistrust toward non-Catholic sects, such as Baptists and Methodists, is on the increase. These sects possess considerable funds, which they receive largely from America. Proselytizing is done by paying up to 10 thousand zlotys per head for joining the sect. In Warsaw, where there is a great lack of housing, dwellings built by these sects are given out to new members."

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